

Hollingbury Copse.

Brighton.

10 Dec. 1884

My dear Sir

It is very clear to me that I don't deserve to have nice kind letters like the one of yours of the 30th ult. I have no really sufficient excuse for leaving it so long unanswered - but it reached me on my starting for London - I fully intended to write them but somehow [I might have written letters instead of going to see the Sorcerer, but as Charles Matthews used to say, I didl'n't] I got absorbed in other things & since I have returned, things have been all

now, & everything in confusion & my
correspondence in neglect.

What a merciful escape you
have had, & how thankful one ought
to be for similar mercies. Two
similar accidents have happened in
Tregunter Road, & the late Alex^r
Dyce had only left his next-to-sky
room in Grays Inn a few minutes
before the chiming stack fell
just over his usual chair - that
dear old room in which I was
first welcomed in my youth now
nearly fifty years ago.

I was good friends all their
lives with Dyce, Collier, Harness,
Singer & Knight, & I believe with
now every English & American
editor save only F. J. Furnivall.
So I hope I am not naturally of
a quarrelsome disposition.

You are doing a great work with the Ballads, but it is wrong in you to injure your health by going on too zealously with them. It is however very natural, & in such cases I have no proper right to advise. I need scarcely say that all you do is valued by me; though I have no special interest in ballads after 1640 or thereabouts, even the later ones have sometimes most important references to earlier times.

The 4th ed. of my Outlines differs somewhat from but has fewer documents than the 3rd, the one you have. If ~~you~~ I live to do a fifth there will be sufficient variation to entitle me, when sending you a copy, to ask you to put the 3rd into your paper-basket. But I

am disappointed at not being told
of my faults in the 3rd, a process
you ~~at~~ half promised to go through,
I unless my friends tell me where
they think I am wrong I shall
never be able to carry out the
arguments satisfactory, I mean, to
meet objections where I believe they
ought to be met, & to own
myself wrong when I cannot so
meet them.

Yrs faithfully

L.O. Halliwell-Phillips

The Rev. W. J. Elsworth